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What is claimed is:

1. A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter, wherein said promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence comprising a DNA sequence which encodes a peptidoglycan-associated lipoprotein (PAL) of gram-negative bacteria and wherein said DNA sequence, under the control of said promoter, is expressed in lipidated form.

2. The plasmid of Claim 1 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *Haemophilus influenzae* (*H. influenzae*).

3. The plasmid of Claim 2 wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter or a T7 promoter.

4. The plasmid of Claim 3 wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter.

5. The plasmid of Claim 4 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4020.

6. The plasmid of Claim 3 wherein the promoter is a T7 promoter.

7. The plasmid of Claim 6 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4019.

8. A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 1.

9. A method of producing a recombinant lipidated PAL, which comprises transforming, transducing or transfecting a bacterial host cell with the plasmid of Claim 1 and culturing the host cell under conditions which permit the expression of said lipidated recombinant PAL by the host cell.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *H. influenzae*.

11. An antigenic composition comprising lipidated recombinant PAL, wherein said antigenic

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composition elicits a protective immune response in a mammalian host.

12. The antigenic composition of Claim 11 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *H. influenzae*.

13. The antigenic composition of Claim 11 which further comprises one or more of a diluent or carrier.

14. The antigenic composition of Claim 11 which further comprises at least one adjuvant.

15. The antigenic composition of Claim 14 wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, Stimulon™ QS-21, 3-O-deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A, IL-12, the heat-labile toxin of *E. coli*, and wild-type or mutant cholera toxin.

16. A method of immunizing against a gram-negative bacterium which comprises administering to a mammalian host an immunogenic amount of the antigenic composition of Claim 11.

17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the gram-negative bacterium is *H. influenzae* and the antigenic composition includes lipidated rP6.

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